United Nations A/55/223–S/2000/762

General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Item 46 of the provisional agenda*
The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 28 July 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement on the situation in Afghanistan issued on 14 July 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yves **Doutriaux**
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.
Deputy Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations

* A/55/150.

00-58926 (E) 030800 040800

Annex to the letter dated 28 July 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the situation in Afghanistan issued on 14 July 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union condemns the recent resumption of wide-scale hostilities in Afghanistan.

Recalling the provisions of its Common Position of 24 January 2000, the European Union points out that the continuation of the war flies in the face of the many appeals for peace by the international community. A fresh escalation of fighting would bring unacceptable suffering for the peoples of Afghanistan, already seriously affected by severe drought, and show blatant disregard for the efforts made by donor countries to assist them.

The European Union is seriously concerned that the military operations are impeding the provision of humanitarian assistance to the Afghan population. The deliberate denial of access to humanitarian aid constitutes a breach of international humanitarian law. The European Union calls upon all factions involved in the conflict to guarantee safe and unhindered access to the civilian population.

The European Union firmly believes that the present conflict cannot be resolved by military means. It urges the various factions to stop fighting and work, with United Nations help, on a political process capable of restoring peace. It is closely following current efforts to set in motion a Loya Jirga process with the broadest possible involvement of Afghan civil society.

The European Union reiterates its calls to Afghanistan's neighbours to desist from any interference in the conflict. It has itself had in place an embargo on arms for Afghanistan since 1996.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this statement.

United Nations A/55/224

General Assembly

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8 August 2000

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Fifty-fifth session

Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations

Letter dated 7 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Bangladesh has consistently stressed the need to ensure a sound financial base for the United Nations in general and its peacekeeping operations in particular. In recent times, as peacekeeping activities have increased, that need is being felt even more.

In May 2000, during the discussions of the Fifth Committee at the resumed fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly, my delegation underlined that need. In accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, we wish to request the inclusion in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly of a supplementary item entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure, an explanatory memorandum concerning this request is attached (see annex).

(*Signed*) Anwarul Karim **Chowdhury**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

00-59870 (E) 090800

Annex to the letter dated 7 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Explanatory memorandum

In order to make peacekeeping operations more worthwhile in the maintenance of peace and international security, effective financing of the peacekeeping operations is crucial to the role and responsibility of the United Nations, as enshrined in its Charter.

Since the institution of the current arrangements for assessing the scale of contributions to the peacekeeping budget, membership of the United Nations has increased. At the same time, the United Nations peacekeeping operations have also become increasingly complex. The current arrangement, therefore, should be made more transparent, creative, realistic and focused, keeping the best interest of the United Nations in mind.

Given the nature of the subject and issues involved, it would be appropriate if a supplementary item entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations" were taken up by the Fifth Committee during the main part of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

United Nations A/55/225

General Assembly

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8 August 2000

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Fifty-fifth session

Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Letter dated 14 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I have the honour to request the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations". I recommend that the matter be allocated to the Fifth Committee for its consideration during the regular session.

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum is attached (see annex).

(*Signed*) Ole Peter **Kolby**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-59876 (E) 090800

Annex to the letter dated 14 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Explanatory memorandum

The scale of assessments for peacekeeping operations has not been comprehensively updated since its inception in 1973. Since maintaining peace and security continues to be one of the Organization's most crucial tasks, we believe it is necessary to review the current scale to ensure that it can support current and future peacekeeping activities.

In our view, the Fifth Committee would be the appropriate forum to consider this issue during the main part of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

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General Assembly

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14 August 2000

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Fifty-fifth session

Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session

Observer status for the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance in the General Assembly

Letter dated 14 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations has the honour to request, in accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly of a supplementary item entitled "Observer status for the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance in the General Assembly".

A similar request (contained in document A/54/193) was made at the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly. The request is made by Sweden on behalf of the following States members of International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA): Australia, Barbados, Belgium, Botswana, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, India, Namibia, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, and Uruguay.

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the explanatory memorandum is attached to this request (see annex).

(*Signed*) Pierre **Schori**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations

00-60700 (E) 150800

Annex to the letter dated 14 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the United Nations

Explanatory memorandum

The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA, or the Institute) is an international intergovernmental organization, based in Stockholm, Sweden, which was established by the Agreement Establishing the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, concluded in Stockholm on 27 February 1995 by 14 founding member States. It currently has 19 member States (as at 30 June 2000)[a] as well as a non-member State contributor, with outstanding membership applications by several States. Its overall mandate is to promote sustainable democracy and assist democratization worldwide.

More concretely, the objectives of the International IDEA are as follows:

- To promote and advance sustainable democracy worldwide;
- To broaden the understanding and promote the implementation and dissemination of the norms, rules and guidelines that apply to multiparty pluralism and democratic processes;
- To strengthen and support national capacity to develop a full range of democratic instruments;
- To provide a meeting place for exchanges between all those involved in electoral processes in the context of democratic institution-building;
- To increase knowledge and enhance learning about democratic electoral processes;
- To promote transparency and accountability, professionalism and efficiency in the electoral process in the context of democratic development.

Within the broad mandate, the International IDEA currently has four pillars of activities: a rules and guidelines programme, which aims at standard-setting for democratic practices; a capacity-building programme, which aims at building democratic capacities in selected countries or regions; an applied research programme, which aims at bridging the gap between academia and practitioners by providing meeting places as well as practical research activities within its sphere of competence; and information services on democracy-related issues. In all its activities, the International IDEA adopts a non-prescriptive approach to democracy promotion and democratization assistance, and therefore chooses to provide options for democratization rather than a predetermined solution. The work of the International IDEA is supported by an international secretariat composed of some 60 staff members, recruited internationally.

The Institute's organs consist of the Council, the Nominating Committee, the Board of Directors, the Secretary-General and the Secretariat. The governing Council gives the overall direction of the Institute's work, reviews the activities of the Institute, and appoints the members of the Board of Directors and the Nominating Committee. The Board of Directors, appointed by the Council, consists of between 9 and 15 members, serving in their personal capacities, who are selected

on the basis of accomplishment in the fields of law, electoral techniques and politics and in the relevant areas of academia. The Board of Directors develops the policies of the Institute on the basis of the overall direction given by the Council and appoints the Secretary-General. The Nominating Committee, appointed by the Council, nominates distinguished personalities to serve as members of the Board of Directors for appointment by the Council.

One important feature of the International IDEA's work method in democratization assistance is its partnership with other international organizations, as democratization is closely linked to promotion of other substantive policy issues, such as human rights, conflict management, sustainable development, representativeness and inclusiveness and transparency. In this context, the Institute currently has memoranda of understanding or cooperation agreements with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the International Commission of Jurists, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie. The International IDEA also works closely with other international or regional organizations, such as various parts of the United Nations (in particular with the Electoral Assistance Division), the World Bank, the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the European Union (EU). Given the importance of working with civil society, currently five international non-governmental organizations, which have met the approval of the Council, are also associated with the Institute.

In the coming years, the International IDEA will continue to focus in its work programme on several key themes, such as democracy and conflict management, the relationship between democratization, sustainable development and poverty eradication and the right to democracy as a human right. It will also continue to have substantive capacity-building activities in selected countries. In all those work areas, it is believed that an increased cooperation with the United Nations would be crucial. While the International IDEA has already been working with the United Nations through various arrangements, it considers it desirable to consolidate and strengthen links between the United Nations, and that an observer status in the General Assembly would be mutually beneficial. Consequently, pursuant to a decision taken by its Council and the Board of Directors, the International IDEA requests that it be granted observer status in the General Assembly.

Notes

[a] Uruguay, which joined the Institute in May 2000, currently attends the International IDEA Council meeting as a non-voting observer as it awaits parliamentary ratification of the Agreement.

United Nations A/55/227

General Assembly

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Fifty-fifth session

Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session

Need to examine the exceptional international situation pertaining to the Republic of China on Taiwan, to ensure that the fundamental right of its twenty-three million people to participate in the work and activities of the United Nations is fully respected

Letter dated 3 August 2000 from the representatives of Burkina Faso, the Gambia, Grenada, Honduras, Malawi, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Nicaragua, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Solomon Islands and Swaziland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon the instruction of our respective Governments, we have the honour to request, pursuant to rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the Assembly of a supplementary item entitled "Need to examine the exceptional international situation pertaining to the Republic of China on Taiwan, to ensure that the fundamental right of its twenty-three million people to participate in the work and activities of the United Nations is fully respected". Pursuant to rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, we attach an explanatory memorandum (see annex I) and a draft resolution (see annex II).

(*Signed*) Michel **Kafando**
Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Baboucarr-Blaise Ismaila **Jagne**
Permanent Representative of the Gambia to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Lamuel A. **Stanislaus**
Permanent Representative of Grenada to the United Nations

00-59313 (E) 080800

(*Signed*) Angel Edmundo **Orellana**
Permanent Representative of Honduras to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Yusuf Mcdadlly **Juwayeyi**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Malawi to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Jackeo A. **Relang**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Marshall Islands
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Vinci Neil **Clodumar**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Nauru to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Mario H. **Castellón Duarte**
Alternate Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of Nicaragua to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Dennie M. J. **Wilson**
Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Ibra Deguène **Ka**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Senegal to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Jeremiah **Manele**
Counsellor
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of Solomon Islands to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Joel M. **Nhleko**
Counsellor
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Swaziland to the United Nations

Annex I to the letter dated 3 August 2000 from the representatives of Burkina Faso, the Gambia, Grenada, Honduras, Malawi, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Nicaragua, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Solomon Islands and Swaziland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Explanatory memorandum

As Tuvalu of the South Pacific is to be admitted to the United Nations later this year, the Republic of China on Taiwan will then be the only country in the world that remains excluded from the United Nations. Therefore, there is an urgent need to examine this situation from a whole new perspective and redress this mistaken omission. There are many reasons why the Republic of China should have the right to play a role in the United Nations:

1. **The Republic of China is a democratic country and its democratically elected Government is the sole legitimate one that can actually represent the interests and wishes of the people of Taiwan in the United Nations.**

The Republic of China and the People's Republic of China have coexisted on their respective sides of the Taiwan Strait, with neither subject to the other's rule. Over that past half-century, each side has developed its own political system, social values and foreign relations. Therefore, each of these two sides can speak for and represent only the people actually under its jurisdiction on its respective side of the Taiwan Strait.

2. **The exclusion of the Republic of China from the United Nations and its related agencies has created a major and serious obstacle for both the Government and the people of the Republic of China in their pursuit of normal participation in international organizations and activities.**

From 1950 to 1971, the United Nations considered the question of China's representation. In October 1971, at its twenty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 2758 (XXVI), in which it decided that the China seat would be taken by the People's Republic of China. That resolution, however, failed to address the issue of legitimate representation for the people of Taiwan in the United Nations.

Worse still, while the representatives of the Government of the Republic of China are excluded from all United Nations activities, the Republic of China's lack of membership in the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) have too often been used as pretexts to deter or discourage the participation of individuals and non-governmental groups of the Republic in United Nations activities and all activities related to all functions of the Economic and Social Council.

This unjust exclusion of civil associations and individuals of the Republic of China runs counter to the predominant trend of involving all possible participants in international affairs and the United Nations call for global and comprehensive partnership.

3. The Republic of China, a country with significant achievements, is a constructive and responsible member of the international community.

The Republic of China has played a positive role in promoting world trade, eradicating poverty and advancing human rights, a fact that merits recognition by Members of the United Nations.

The Republic of China has a population of 23 million and a democratic system. Above all, it is a peace-loving country, which is able and willing to carry out the obligations contained in the Charter of the United Nations.

Today the people of the Republic of China on Taiwan enjoy a high degree of freedom and democracy. The Republic held its first direct presidential election in March 1996, the first time in history that the Republic elected its highest leader by popular vote. In March 2000, Mr. Chen Shui-bian of the Democratic Progressive Party was elected in the second direct presidential election, marking the first-ever change of political parties for the presidency of the Republic of China. Since Mr. Chen's inauguration on 20 May 2000, the people of the Republic have witnessed a peaceful transition of power as a result of a democratic election.

The Republic of China is one of the most successful examples of economic development in the twentieth century and is now the world's nineteenth largest economy in terms of GNP, and the fourteenth most important trading country. It is also a major investor in East Asia and possesses the third largest amount of foreign reserves in the world.

The Republic of China is also a humanitarian-minded country. Over the years it has sent over 10,000 experts to train technicians in countries all over the world, especially the countries of Asia, the South Pacific, Latin America and Africa, to help develop their agricultural, fishery and livestock industries. It also has provided billions of United States dollars in disaster relief throughout the world, including the People's Republic of China, over the past several years, and has responded to United Nations appeals for emergency relief and rehabilitation assistance to countries suffering from natural disasters and wars.

Currently, the Republic of China contributes capital to regional development programmes through international financial institutions such as the Asian Development Bank, the Central American Bank for Economic Integration, the Inter-American Development Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

The Republic of China is fully committed to observing the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to its integration into the international human rights system spearheaded by the United Nations.

4. The United Nations should take note of the recent conciliatory gestures of the Republic of China towards the People's Republic of China and play a facilitating role by providing a forum for their reconciliation and rapprochement.

On 20 June 2000, President Chen called upon the leader of the People's Republic of China, President Jiang Zemin, to work together to bring about a historic summit like that just held between North and South Korea. He indicated that he would be willing to sit down with Mr. Jiang to pursue cross-strait reconciliation, without specifying any preconditions, format or location. He also urged the leaders

of the two sides to use their wisdom and creativity, based on the principles of democracy and parity, to jointly create a favourable environment for the betterment of cross-strait relations. He further voiced the hope that the leaders of the Republic of China and the People's Republic of China would respect the free choice of the people on both sides and work together to resolve the question of a future "one-China".

As an organization dedicated to the preservation and maintenance of world peace, the United Nations should facilitate a reconciliation and peace process between the two sides of the Taiwan Strait. The United Nations can serve as a forum to foster mutual understanding and goodwill between the Republic of China and the People's Republic of China so that confidence-building measures can be developed in time, thus reducing cross-strait tension.

5. **The participation of the Republic of China on Taiwan in the United Nations poses no barrier to the future peaceful resolution of the differences between the two sides of the Taiwan Strait; indeed, it can be conducive to regional peace and security.**

The examples of the former East Germany and West Germany, and now of the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, serve as precedents for parallel representation of divided nations in the United Nations. The exchanges between East Germany and West Germany via the United Nations and other international organizations contributed not only to regional peace and security, but also to their peaceful unification in 1990. The simultaneous admission of two Koreas into the United Nations in 1991 also helped to build mutual trust and confidence between the two, which culminated in the June 2000 summit.

The strategic position of Taiwan makes it a focal point of the entire Asia and Pacific region. Accordingly, the stability of the Taiwan Strait and its periphery is vital to the maintenance of peace and security for the region in particular and for the world in general. In the absence of an institutionalized crisis-management mechanism that covers the relations across the Taiwan Strait, a role for the Republic of China on Taiwan in the United Nations would bring the area under the peace and security mechanism contained in the United Nations, thus enhancing the maintenance of peace and security in the region. The United Nations should therefore encourage both sides of the Taiwan Strait to work and cooperate in the Organization and its related organizations.

6. **The General Assembly should act to ensure that the voice of the 23 million people on Taiwan is heard in the United Nations and its related organizations.**

Tremendous changes have taken place globally in the past two decades. The world is faced with increasingly demanding tasks in eradicating disease and poverty, protecting the environment and endangered species, regulating human migration and population growth, and promoting human rights and dignity. Many of those issues call for global and comprehensive efforts that transcend traditional national boundaries. To be more effective and efficient, these joint efforts require not only broad support and cooperation from national Governments, but also greater involvement and participation from local governments, civil associations and even individuals. As the world organization with the most comprehensive functions, the United Nations system should invite every possible participant of the international

community to join the partnership to further the objectives and purposes of the United Nations.

At the dawning of the new millennium, people around the world welcome the Israeli-Arab peace talks, the summit between the North and South Koreas and the imminent accession of both the Republic of China and the People's Republic of China to the World Trade Organization. All these events signify that reconciliation has replaced confrontation as the dominant spirit of the new century and the mainstream value of the international community. It is high time that the United Nations seriously reconsider the appropriateness of continued exclusion of the Republic of China from this most important global forum. With the participation of the Republic of China, the United Nations can live up to its principle of universality, achieve its goal of preventive diplomacy, and facilitate the cross-strait reconciliation and peace process.

Annex II to the letter dated 3 August 2000 from the representatives of Burkina Faso, the Gambia, Grenada, Honduras, Malawi, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Nicaragua, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Solomon Islands and Swaziland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Considering the fact that the twenty-three million people of the Republic of China on Taiwan are the only remaining people in the world that still do not have actual and legitimate representation in the United Nations,

Recognizing that since 1949 the Government of the Republic of China has exercised effective control and jurisdiction over the Taiwan area while the Government of the People's Republic of China has exercized effective control and jurisdiction over the Chinese mainland during the same time period,

Acknowledging that the Republic of China on Taiwan is a constructive and responsible member of the international community, with a democratic system and a strong, dynamic economy,

Observing that the strategic location of Taiwan is vital to the peace and security of the East Asian and Pacific regions and the world,

Understanding that the determination of future relations between the Republic of China on Taiwan and the People's Republic of China should fully respect the free will of the people on both sides and be implemented in a peaceful way,

Mindful of the fact that the Republic of China has committed itself to peaceful resolution of differences with the People's Republic of China and has repeatedly offered friendly and conciliatory gestures towards the leadership of the People's Republic of China,

Noting the declaration of the Government of the Republic of China on Taiwan that it accepts without condition the obligations contained in the Charter of the United Nations, that it is able and willing to carry out those obligations, and that it is fully committed to observing the principles and spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Affirming the significance that recognition of and respect for the fundamental rights of the twenty-three million people of the Republic of China on Taiwan would have for upholding the principles and spirit of the Charter of the United Nations,

Decides:

(a) To respect fully the choice of the people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait with regard to their future relations and to reject any unilateral arrangement or forced resolution of their differences by other than peaceful means;

(b) To express its concern about cross-strait tension and its possible impact upon regional peace, stability and prosperity, and to encourage the Republic of China on Taiwan and the People's Republic of China to resume their dialogue and communications on a peaceful basis and equal footing;

(c) To establish a working group of the General Assembly with the mandate of examining thoroughly the exceptional international situation pertaining to the Republic of China on Taiwan so as to ensure that its twenty-three million people participate, with a direct and representative voice, in the United Nations and its related agencies.

United Nations A/55/227/Add.1

General Assembly

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Fifty-fifth session

Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session

Need to examine the exceptional international situation pertaining to the Republic of China on Taiwan, to ensure that the fundamental right of its twenty-three million people to participate in the work and activities of the United Nations is fully respected

Letter dated 3 August 2000 from the representatives of Burkina Faso, the Gambia, Grenada, Honduras, Malawi, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Nicaragua, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Solomon Islands and Swaziland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Addendum

Add the following name to the list of signatories:

(*Signed*) Simon P. Richards
Permanent Representative of Dominica to the United Nations

00-62198 (E) 250800

United Nations A/55/228

General Assembly

Distr.: General
4 August 2000

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Fifty-fifth session

Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session

Towards global partnerships

Letter dated 4 August 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I have the honour to request the inclusion of a supplementary item entitled "Towards global partnerships" in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly. As this subject touches upon issues beyond the scope of one Main Committee, it would be appropriate to allocate it to the plenary of the General Assembly itself.

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum is attached as an annex to this letter.

(*Signed*) Hanns **Schumacher**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

00-59496 (E) 140800

Annex to the letter dated 4 August 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Explanatory memorandum

Towards global partnerships

The implications of globalization for modern societies and development have constituted an overarching issue in United Nations activities of the last few years. There is widespread consent that globalization is setting off deep changes, among others, the emergence of new "global players" in civil society and business. Governments and multilateral institutions have to take this into consideration in evaluating their role and functions in the future.

Globalization offers great opportunities; its benefits, however, are unevenly distributed. Thus, we should look at concrete ways and means of establishing true, inclusive and global partnerships with all relevant actors on an equal basis. No Member State, no geographical region should be left out of this process, which is aimed finally at improving living conditions and eradicating poverty on a large scale.

It is primarily up to Governments to address this issue and to discuss it in the United Nations, the only truly universal forum. The Member States, together with the United Nations Secretariat, should exert their influence to build these new partnerships in order to secure a balanced and positive outcome.

At the same time, ways and means have to be explored to ensure that new global players carry their share of responsibilities for our common future. This requires a focused and integrated approach, with particular emphasis on the question of coherence.

Germany takes the position that the General Assembly should examine this fundamental issue with a special view to the role of the Secretary-General, the United Nations system and its member countries, and their respective efforts in this area, following up the theme of the Millennium Summit, "The role of the United Nations in the twenty-first century". To this end, the Permanent Mission of Germany is involved in ongoing consultations with other interested Member States from all regions.

We therefore kindly request the inclusion of this question as a supplementary item in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

United Nations A/55/229

General Assembly

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14 August 2000

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Fifty-fifth session

Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session

The role of the United Nations in promoting a new global human order

Letter dated 11 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Guyana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon the instruction of my Government, I have the honour to request you, pursuant to rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, to include a supplementary item in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the Assembly entitled "The role of the United Nations in promoting a new global human order". Pursuant to rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I attach herewith an explanatory memorandum (see annex).

S. R. **Insanally**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-60727 (E) 150800

Annex to the letter dated 11 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Guyana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Explanatory memorandum

The role of the United Nations in promoting a new global human order

Purpose

The proposal for a new global human order is intended to prompt a re-examination of international cooperation and partnership and to explore the prospects of a viable consensus on people-centred development as a central pillar of the work of the United Nations in development in the twenty-first century.

Such an undertaking is now imperative in light of the manifold initiatives on development that have been embarked upon over the past five decades and the comparably meagre results that have ensued. The series of United Nations conferences held during the 1990s, which are among the most recent démarches by the international community in this regard, established the centrality of people-centred development, together with a consensus on critical aspects to be addressed through national action and international cooperation. However, the review processes that have taken place to date point to a certain disappointment and frustration over the lack of progress in implementation.

The urgent need therefore exists to impart fresh momentum to the achievement of international economic and social cooperation, for new approaches to development, including on the question of resources. This is illustrated by the attempts on all fronts, including the leading financial and trade institutions, to redefine and reconfigure the parameters of development assistance. The functioning of the international machinery in support of development also needs to be examined with a view to promoting greater coherence and coordination. The Millennium Assembly of the United Nations provides a unique opportunity for a fresh look at both the problems and possibilities of international cooperation.

Background and rationale

The call for a new global human order was first made at the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen in 1995 by then President of Guyana, Dr. Cheddi Jagan. Since then, it has found echo in a number of international forums, including the Caribbean Community, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and most recently the Group of 77. At the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), held in Georgetown, Guyana, in July 1995, CARICOM heads expressed their support for the call for a new global human order. In the Declaration of the South Summit held in Havana in April 2000, heads of State and Government of the Group of 77 and China stressed, *inter alia*, "the need for a new global human order aimed at reversing the growing disparities between rich and poor, both among and within countries, through the promotion of growth with equity, the eradication of poverty, the expansion of

productive employment and the promotion of gender equality and social integration".

The deepening interdependence of nations and peoples, the consolidation of democracy in many countries across the globe, accelerated technological innovation and the end of the cold war offer potentially enhanced prospects for the achievement of these aims. However, the growing inequities and disparities that have accompanied the globablization of the world economy manifested by the increasing income and technological divide between developed and developing countries strongly militate against economic and social progress for the majority of humanity.

Objectives and proposed actions

The proposal for a new global human order seeks to build a strong political consensus and a broad-based global partnership to combat poverty and promote economic security throughout the world. This must be based on a long-term integrated approach to development that takes full account of how Governments, markets and societies interact and provides for the achievement of concrete development results.

Political will and an enlightened international partnership are essential to successfully address the challenges of global poverty and inequity and the promotion of full human development. Such a partnership needs to involve all relevant actors, Member States, the international community and non-governmental actors. It could address the linkages between issues of vital importance to the developing world and concerns in the developed countries and promote solutions to common problems.

The partnership should endeavour to build on the vital work done to date by the United Nations in development, including in the series of United Nations conferences held during the 1990s and, more importantly, to provide new impetus to the implementation of the many development initiatives undertaken under the auspices of the Organization. To this end, the proposal envisages the coordination by the world community of efforts towards effective action that is people-centred, aimed at promoting fully the social and economic welfare of the peoples of the world. It will further sensitize the international community to the compelling need to focus not merely on the financial and economic factors but also on moral and social imperatives that place people's livelihood at the centre of material development.

The proposal envisages a number of concrete initiatives aimed at addressing critical issues of human development. Investment, technical and economic assistance remain principal instruments to support the development undertakings of developing countries. It seeks to advance further action on three major fronts. First, there is the fundamental need to facilitate a reshaping of the role of government in order to build the democratic instruments necessary for human development. This will facilitate the strengthening of the capabilities to provide the services and infrastructure necessary to forging the requisite synergies between economic growth, poverty reduction and social development. Secondly, it seeks to mobilize enhanced political support for development. The developed countries must be urged to take definitive action to honour their obligations regarding the United Nations official development assistance (ODA) target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP), given the overall improvement in their economic conditions. It is also important that official debt relief be adequately financed though not at the expense

of resources for development assistance. Further, while the heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) debt initiative is an important step to assist developing countries in obtaining resources to address poverty, greater effort is required to allow countries to qualify for debt relief on the grounds of the incidence of poverty. Third, the proposal seeks to facilitate a genuine consensus on the promotion of social justice, ownership and good governance, at both the national and international levels. These are key elements in the promotion of human development. To this end, consideration should be given to the establishment of an international arbitration process which would balance the interests of donors, international financial institutions, transnational corporations and developing countries with a view to introducing greater discipline in international cooperation.

Role of the United Nations

The United Nations remains the premier institution of the world community for forging global consensus on issues of universal concern. It spearheaded the struggles for decolonization and political independence. It must now, in an increasingly interdependent world and in keeping with the mandate of its Charter, play a pivotal role in promoting higher standards of living in larger freedom for the benefit of all of the world's peoples.

United Nations A/55/230

General Assembly

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14 August 2000
English
Original: Spanish

Fifty-fifth session

Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations

Letter dated 14 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I have the honour to request the inclusion in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly of a supplementary item entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure, an explanatory memorandum is attached.

(*Signed*) Bernd **Niehaus**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-60733 (E) 150800 150800

Annex to the letter dated 14 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Explanatory memorandum

Peacekeeping operations now constitute one of the most important activities of the United Nations, and safeguarding the important task of peacekeeping is a responsibility that involves all Member States, especially as far as the expenses of such operations are concerned.

The circumstances under which the methodology used to apportion the expenses of peacekeeping operations among Member States was designed have changed. It is clear that the political and economic context in which the Organization must operate now requires a redefinition of the current special scale. For this reason, it is relevant to examine whether the current special scale of assessments for peacekeeping operations is the most appropriate one to enable the Organization to discharge its responsibilities effectively in this area, in a renewed international context in which it is expected and required to do so. The review of the scale of assessments should, however, be carried out solely on the principle of a fair share in accordance with the level of economic development of each country. The methodology for determining the scale of assessments should adhere strictly to the principle of capacity to pay. In this connection, Costa Rica will not support any effort to amend the scale that would imply the abandonment of this principle.

Lastly, the item on the methodology of the scale of assessments should continue to be assigned to the Fifth Committee, in order to safeguard its highly technical and financial nature and, to the extent possible, prevent the discussion of the item from evolving into a political discussion.

United Nations A/55/231

General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 August 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fifth session

Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session

The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict

Letter dated 15 August 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to request, in accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly of a supplementary item entitled "The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum is attached to this request (see annex).

In view of the wide-ranging issues which this item raises, I would be grateful if the item could be allocated to the plenary of the General Assembly.

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Stewart **Eldon**
Chargé d'affaires

00-60807 (E) 150800

Annex to the letter dated 15 August 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Explanatory memorandum

The proposed item reflects the need to address the issue of the role played by diamonds in conflicts throughout the world. In a number of such conflicts, rebel forces have gained access to local diamond mines and illicitly exported diamonds to help finance arms purchases and other activities. Action is already being taken in a number of international forums. The international diamond industry has called for each rough diamond importing country to prohibit the import of rough diamonds unless they have been certified by an accredited authority in the exporting country. The group of countries taking part in the "Kimberley Working Group" have made similar proposals.

Diamonds are produced in approximately 22 States. A further four or five are major importers. The worries of consumers about the origin of diamonds have a potential impact on the legitimate trade. The issue should therefore be addressed by the General Assembly with a view to taking appropriate action to deal with this problem.

United Nations A/55/232

General Assembly

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25 August 2000

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Fifty-fifth session

Request for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session

Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The Secretary-General has the honour to request, pursuant to rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the Assembly of an additional item, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea".

2. Owing to the nature of the item, the Secretary-General further requests that it be allocated to the Fifth Committee.

00-62204 (E) 250800